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IN THE CLAIMS:

1.-17. (Cancelled)

18. (New) A method of starting-up a router connected to a plurality of sub-networks in a home bus system comprising a router, a sub-network, an another router including a parent router for assigning a sub-network identification code that identifies each of the sub-networks, the method comprising:

carrying out a request for the sub-network identification code that identifies each of sub-networks connected to the router;

receiving a response based on the request;

determining from the response that another router is absent in each of the sub-networks connected to the router; and

stopping a routing function based on said determining.

19. (New) The method according to Claim 18, wherein said carrying out the request comprises using a provisional sub-network identification code.

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20. (New) The method according to Claim 19, wherein the provisional network identification code comprises a value of 0x00.

21. (New) A router connected to a plurality of the sub-networks in a home bus system having a router, a sub-network, and another router including a parent router for assigning a sub-network identification code that identifies each of the sub-networks, the router comprising:

a transmitting means for carrying out a request for the sub-network identification code that identifies each of the sub-networks;

a means for receiving a response based on the request;

a means for determining from the received response that an another router is absent in each of the sub-networks connected to the router; and

a means for stopping a routing function based on information provided by said means for determining.

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22. (New) The router according to Claim 21, further comprising a means for storing a provisional sub-network identification code; and

the transmitting means is for carrying out the request by using the provisional sub-network identification code.

23. (New) A method for starting a router connected to a plurality of sub-networks in a home bus system comprising a router, a sub-network and another router including a parent router for assigning a sub-network identification code that identifies each of the sub-networks, the method comprising:

carrying out a request for the sub-network identification code that identifies each of sub-networks connected to the router;

receiving a response providing the sub-network identification code based on the request; and

stopping a routing function when the response is absent from each of the sub-networks connected to the router.

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24. (New) The method according to Claim 23, wherein said carrying out the request comprises using a provisional sub-network identification code.

25. (New) The method according to Claim 24, wherein the provisional network identification code comprises a value of 0x00.

26. (New) A router connected to a plurality of sub-networks in a home bus system comprising a router, a sub-network, and another router including a parent router for assigning a sub-network identification code that identifies each of the sub-networks, the router comprising:

a transmitting means for carrying out a request for the sub-network identification code that identifies each of the sub-networks connected to the router;

a means for receiving a response based on the request; and a means for stopping a routing function when the response of the sub-network identification code is absent from each of the sub-networks connected to the router.

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27. (New) The router according to Claim 26, wherein:
the router further comprises a means for storing a
provisional sub-network identification code; and
transmitting means for carrying out the request by using
the provisional sub-network identification code.

28. (New) A method for starting a router connected to a
plurality of sub-networks, comprising:
carrying out a request for a sub-network identification
code that identifies each of the sub-networks connected to the
router;
receiving a response based on the request;
determining from the response that another router is
present in each of the sub-networks connected to the router; and
stopping a routing function based on the response.

29. (New) The method according to Claim 28, wherein said
carrying out the request comprises using a provisional sub-
network identification code.

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30. (New) The method according to Claim 29, wherein the provisional network identification code comprises a value of 0x00.

31. (New) A router connected to a plurality of sub-networks, comprising:

a transmitting means for carrying out a request for a sub-network identification code that identifies each of the sub-networks connected to the router;

a means for receiving a response based on the request;

a means for determining from the received response that another router is present in each of the sub-networks connected to the router; and

a means for stopping a routing function based on information provided by said means for determining.

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32. (New) The router according to Claim 31, further comprises a means for storing a provisional sub-network identification code; and

transmitting means for carrying out the request by using the provisional sub-network identification code.

33. (New) A method for routing a router connected to a plurality of sub-networks, comprising:

carrying out a request for a sub-network identification code that identifies each of sub-networks connected to the router by using a provisional sub-network identification code;

receiving a response based on the request, the response comprising the sub-network code from each of the sub-networks connected to the router; and

stopping a routing function based on said response.

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34. (New) A router connected to a plurality of sub-networks, comprising:

a means for storing a provisional sub-network identification code;

a means for requesting a sub-network identification code that identifies each of the sub-networks connected to the router by using the provisional sub-network identification code;

a means for receiving the sub-network identification code as a response based on a request of the requesting means;

a communication processing means for transmitting and receiving data among the sub-networks; and

a means for stopping the communication processing means when the requesting means receives the sub-network identification code from each of the sub-networks.